



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Joanne Sturges, Acting Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer  
Chief Probation Officer  
Chief of Public Safety

At its meeting held March 28, 2006, the Board took the following action:

26-A and 26-G

26-A

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich:

“In the morning hours of March 23, 2006, four juveniles residing at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, located in Sylmar, California, escaped from that facility. The four, ranging in age from 16 to 17, kicked in a door panel, made their way to the roof and thereafter scaled the facility’s barbed wire fence.

“Two of the minors are being tried as adults: one had been convicted for attempted murder and is awaiting sentencing, while the other is awaiting trial for robbery, kidnapping and escape. Two are being tried as juveniles: one for carjacking and kidnapping, and the other for drug possession for sales, carrying a concealed weapon, and escape from a Peace Officer causing injury.

“On February 3, 2003, in response to Supervisor Antonovich’s motion, and as a result of previous escapes, the Probation Department issued a report that detailed the status of recommended corrective actions made to ensure security during transportation to and from facilities, as well as recommendations relating to the housing of and programs for the high-risk population of minors declared unfit for juvenile court.

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26-A and 26-G (Continued)

"We therefore recommend that the Chief Probation Officer report to the Board on the details of the escape, an assessment of the cause, and any remedial actions taken to prevent such future escapes.

"We further recommend that the Chief Probation Officer update the February 3, 2003 Probation report by detailing the implementation of previous directives and recommendations relating to security issues at Barry J. Nidorf and other juvenile probation facilities."

26-G

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

"On Thursday, March 23, 2006, at approximately 3:30 a.m., four juveniles escaped from the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar. Unfortunately, this escape is one of many that have plagued the Los Angeles County Probation Department over the past few years. As of the posting of the agenda, these individuals have not been captured.

"I therefore recommend that the Chief Probation Officer be instructed to provide an update on the status of the detention and apprehension of the four escapees as well as a report at the March 28, 2006 Board meeting that entails a plan to address the serious security flaws at all three juvenile halls."

Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer, made a verbal report regarding the incident involving four juveniles who escaped from the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar, including the status of actions taken to discipline negligent staff. The Chief Probation Officer and Chief Margaret A. York, Office of Public Safety, also responded to questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Probation Officer to update the Probation Department's attached February 3, 2003 report detailing implementation of previous directives and recommendations relating to security issues at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and other juvenile probation facilities;

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26-A and 26-G (Continued)

2. Instructed the Chief Probation Officer, Chief of Public Safety, and the Chief Administrative Officer to work on a proposal for security at the juvenile facilities, and report back to the Board with recommendations;
3. At the request of Supervisor Knabe, instructed the Chief Probation Officer to include in his report a profile of the juvenile offenders in custody in the Probation Department's juvenile halls and camps compared to the profile of juveniles in the last 8-10 years;
4. At the request of Supervisor Knabe, instructed the Chief of Public Safety to report back on her staff's response to the March 23, 2006 incident at the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall; and
5. At the request of Supervisor Burke, instructed the Chief Probation Officer to also report to the Board regarding the incident in the holding cell at the Compton Courthouse on March 15, 2006.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:  
Each Supervisor  
County Counsel